

THE GARZETTE



Volume 17, Issue 12

147.075+

444.525+5mhz

53.110 -1mhz

Inside this
issue:

From the
President

1

One of my favorite GARS activities is TechFest. This annual event gives us a chance to share our

knowledge and experiences in diverse Amateur Radio modes, methods, strategies and operating. We've

invited other organizations to participate and share in the knowledge, fellowship and a free lunch. We'll have an active HF station, D-Star and other digital technologies. We'll have a few computers setup to demonstrate software, keys on the tables to show off one of our first and most lasting digital methods. We'll have a demonstration of Gwinnett ARES E-Comm and their Mobile Communications Facility. I wouldn't be surprised to find a demonstration of Linux and Ham Radio applications.

Calendar

2

The Chile Cook-off is one of the highlights of TechFest. Everyone is invited to bring a crock pot of Chile for the tasting and contest. The winner gets bragging rights for the year.

ARES

3

I spent the holidays in Denver, and didn't get a chance to work the CQ Worldwide CW DX Contest, but reports are that the bands were wide open. I hope everyone that worked the contest was happy with their score. I'm not really a contest, but I do sometimes enjoy the competition and skill building of working a lot

VE Schedules

4

of stations in a short time. Generally by the time I get everything setup, the contest is either over or the XYL has something for me to do. Or, I come up with some interference in the shack or house. Oh well, there's always another contest! Mack, WB4MAK, reported: 40M- 61 countries, 20M - 112 countries and 15M - 35 countries. Proves you can work a lot of DX if you put your mind to it. December 5-7 is the ARRL 160 meter contest. December 13 is the ARRL 10M contest. A lot more info on contesting is available on line at www.contesting.com .

Club Meetings

5

Where Am I ?

I look forward to our Holiday Party, Friday evening December 12. We'll start at about 6:30 and eat about 7:00. Reservations are required, so be sure to contact me or Randy to get on the roster.

Who is

WA4Z XV

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73

Norm, WA4Z XV

Party Time

8

No regular meeting in December.

Apparel

9

73

Norm, WA4Z XV

Membership

10

73

Norm, WA4Z XV

Sponsors

11



December 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 2000 2m net	2	3 2100 6m net	4	5	6 0730 breakfast
7	8 2000 2m net	9	10 2100 6m net	11	12	13 0730 breakfast Party
14	15 2000 2m net	16	17 2100 6m net	18	19	20 0730 breakfast
21	22 2000 2m net	23	24 2100 6m net	25 	26	27 0730 breakfast
28	29 2000 2m net	30	31 2100 6m net	Jan. 1 Happy New Year	2	3 0730 breakfast Hamfest
4	5 2000 2m net	6	7 2100 6m net	8	9	10 TechFest 0730 breakfast

GARS Recurring Calendar

- Monthly club meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Check the Web Site for Location.
- Every Monday at 8 PM local time: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 2 meter repeater
- Every Wednesday at 9 PM local time: GARS 6 meter net on the GARS 6 meter repeater
- Every Saturday at 7:30 AM local time: GARS Weekly Family Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville

The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word format or email to ka4kkf@arrl.net. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary. In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of *The GARZETTE* articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and to *The GARZETTE*.

The GARZETTE is published each month with the assistance of Hal Manning, who prints the news letter. Rick Patchin, KD4RFK does the final production work on *The GARZETTE* by folding & labeling. Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN, stamps and gets the end product to the Post Office each month. Norm Schklar, wa4zxv, manages email delivery. Many thanks to each of them and all article contributors.

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For any additional information contact:
Newsletter Editor:

David Adcock ka4kkf
(770-271-9398)
ka4kkf@arrl.net

All correspondence relating to articles posted in *The GARZETTE* or for information concerning advertising rates should be directed to the following address:

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048
Attn: Newsletter Editor

GARS Communication System

Do you know a boy or girl
14 to 21 years old
who wants to:

Climb, Hike
Canoe, Camp
Talk on an amateur radio
Have Fun
Tell them about

Venture Crew 73

**We meet the second Tuesday
of each Month at 7:00PM
prior to the GARS meeting at
St. Marguerite D'Youville
Church..**

For more information Visit
www.gars.org/crew73
or contact Ray Back:

Email crew73@gars.org
Phone (770) 295-9174

70 Cm Repeater

444.525(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

APRS

144.390 -- 1200 Baud
W4GR

Main Repeater Site

Oak Street, Lawrenceville

Backup Repeater Site

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

Remote Receive Sites

Bogan Road, Buford

Goshen Springs Road,
Norcross

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz)
82.5 PL Tone

D-Star
WD4STR
146.970 - (600KHZ)
440.550 + (5MHZ)



Did you know this

about ARES?

Gwinnett ARES is home to the largest active group of ARES members in Georgia. This active group, many of whom are also GARS members contribute many hours of public service and training in emergency communications each month. Through the month of October for 2008, Gwinnett ARES members have conducted 98 nets and participated in 890 man-hours of drills, tests and training. Total hours contributed are over 3500 man hours so far in 2008. Through the close cooperation of Gwinnett to ARES and GARS, we are able to provide many communications and public services Gwinnett County.

John Davis WB4QDX

Emergency Coordinator

Gwinnett ARES and
GARS member



Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta area VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at www.arrl-ga.org

First Saturday, Even Months

9:00AM
EOC Building
Butch Nitz, AF4FS
(770) 968-8780

First Wednesday

7:00 PM
ARRL/VEC
Roberts School
4681 School Street,
Acworth
Jodi Escher AG4BK
770-387-1591

Second Saturday, Odd Months

ARRL VEC
8:30 AM
Stone Mountain Methodist
Church
5312 West Mountain St.
Stone Mountain
Bob Varone, W4ETN
(770) 978-3179

Third Saturday

CA VEC
9:00AM
Marietta First United
Methodist Church Room 305, 56
Whitlock Ave
Marietta
David Still, WB4RRD
(770) 973-2566

Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC
7:00 PM
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road,
Douglasville

Third Sunday

W5YI VEC
3:00 - 5:00 PM
Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge
465 South Perry Street
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
770-963-5721

Fourth Sunday

2:30 PM
Georgia Tech
GATECH-VANLEER ELEC ENGRG
BLDG-RMW218
777 ATLANTIC DRIVE
WWW.W4AQL.ORG
TALKIN 145.15-PL 167.9
ATLANTA, GA 30332
Contact: ALEXANDER G CARVER
(404)894-2936
ACARVER@ECE.GATECH.EDU

Metro Atlanta Club Meetings**First Tuesday**

Kennehoochee ARC
Southern Polytechnic
State University
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM
Talk In 146.880(-)

Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC
Room W218
Van Leer Electrical
Engineering Bldg.
Georgia Tech Campus
Meeting at 7:00 PM

First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club
Georgia Red Cross HQ
1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta
Meeting is at 7:30 PM
Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

Commerce Public Library
Meeting is at 6:30 PM
Talk In - 147.225 (+)
PL 123.0

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club
Annistown Road Baptist Church
Intersection of Annistown Rd
& Spain Rd
Stone Mountain
Dinner at 6:00 PM
Meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 146.760 (-)

Third Tuesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio
League
Alpharetta EOC located at
2970 Webb Bridge Road, in Al-
pharetta
meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 145.47 (-)

Second Saturday

North GA QRP Club
Wieuca Baptist Church on
Peachtree Rd/Wieuca, 10 AM

Where Am I?

by Brian R. Page, N4TRB

Someday they'll come back, the sunspots, that is. And when they do, those of you who have become radio hams in the last few years will get to discover a new hobby, one that includes worldwide HF propagation. You'll learn that those of us who babble about working the island of Mauritius in the India Ocean or McMurdo Sound in Antarctica on 100 watts with a little dipole up 30-feet aren't a little touched in the head. This stuff really happens; trust me on that!

Anyway, when the sunspots return and the F-layer becomes saturated in its ionized glory you too can work the world on 10 meters. When that happens you'll need to attend to the little matter of confirming the contact with a QSL card. Sure, Logbook of the World (LoTW) makes it possible to do the confirmation online; but LoTW can never replace an honest-to-goodness QSL *card* that you can hold in your hand, pin to the wall, and remind you of the glory days once the sunspots have again disappeared.

QSL cards are available from many printers. My favorite is UX5UO (<http://www.ux5uoqsl.com/>) but there are many reputable dealers; and you can even print them yourself if you have the time and patience. However you create your card, there are certain pieces of information that you need to include. Most important, and really all that is actually required, are the details of the contact. This boils down to call sign, date, time, and band. The date and time, of course, are specified in UTC format. Beyond the essentials, most operators include the signal report as Readability, Strength, and Tone (RST) for CW operation or just RS for SSB exchanges. Additionally, the mode of the contact and the output power of your transmitter are often included.

Finally, you ought to include details on your location. It might be natural to think of your street address, but that's really of little interest. Instead, it's probably more important to list your county. That's right, COUNTY, not COUNTRY. There are legions of county hunters who aspire to confirm contacts with every county in the United States! Some of the most fervent county hunters are DX stations. So be sure to list your county on your QSL card.

Beyond county, you also need to identify your location by several other well accepted schemes. These include International Telecommunications Union (ITU) zone, CQ Zone, and Maidenhead grid square. Gathering these details isn't as easy as finding your county so let's look at each in detail.

International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Zone

The ITU is the coordinating body for worldwide frequency allocation. It's a United Nations agency headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Getting the world to agree on frequency utilization is a tough job; but fortunately for us hams, all we care about are the zones into which the ITU has carved up the world. Figure 1 shows the world according to the ITU. We are clearly in ITU Zone 8, and this fact should be listed on your QSL card. Here's a website link to the ITU web map of the world: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/terrestrial/broadcast/hf/refdata/maps/index.html>. This leads to a clickable map which allows you to zoom in for more detail. As you can see, the entire east coast of the United States is in ITU Zone 8, but the U. S. also encompasses zones 6 and 7 too.

CQ Zones

CQ Magazine sponsors the popular and cut-throat CQ Worldwide DX Contests (SSB & CW) each year. Points are awarded, in part, based on the geographical zone of the stations locations. To meet these ends, *CQ Magazine*, like the ITU but without any legal authority, divided the world into zones. See figure 2. Here's a link to the CQ Zone map of the world: <http://www4.plala.or.jp/nomrax/CQ/index.html>. We're in CQ Zone 5 along with most of the Atlantic Ocean.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

Maidenhead Grid Square

The Maidenhead Locator System was developed by VHF radio operators and divides the world into rectangles based on latitude and longitude. Each Maidenhead Grid Square represents 1° of latitude by 2° of longitude, and the coordinates are encoded in a scheme that is more easily sent by Morse code than the actual latitude and longitude. The Maidenhead Grid Square is the most specific of the zone schemes and unlike the ITU and CQ zones, the Maidenhead Grid Squares will vary even within our county. Prior to the advent of personal computers and especially the Internet, it was something of a challenge to unambiguously determine your Maidenhead location. Now, however, it's easy and even fun. The key, of course, is the World Wide Web. QRZ.com provides a terrific grid square locator: www.qrz.com/gridfinder. Navigate to this web site and plug in your street address. You're rewarded with a view such as figure 3 listing not only your grid square, but also a Google Map showing your location. As you can see from the illustration, my grid square is EM74xa. You can also zoom in and reposition the red marker if you need to make fine adjustments to your location. And since this uses Google Maps, you can also switch to an aerial view to actually find your location (figure 4).

Now I have the location information for my QSL card: I live in Gwinnett County, ITU Zone 8, CQ Zone 5, and Maidenhead Grid Square EM74xa. So as one example amongst thousands of possible arrangements, my card looks like figure 5. For more examples of the data portion of QSL cards, see the web site of KB3IFH, a printer: <http://kb3ifh.homestead.com/qslbacks.html>. Now where are those sunspots...?

ITU ZONES AND REGIONS

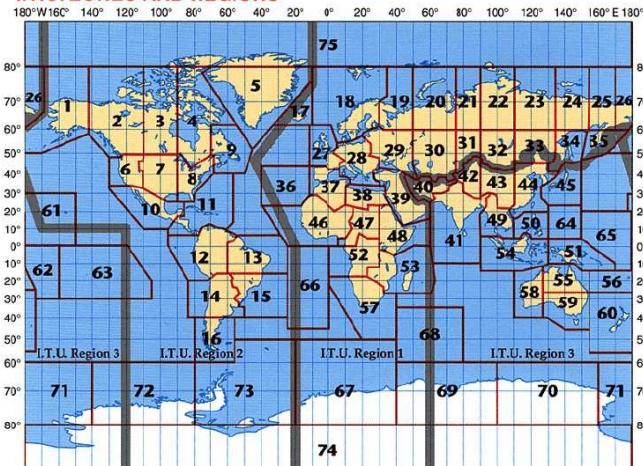


Figure 1

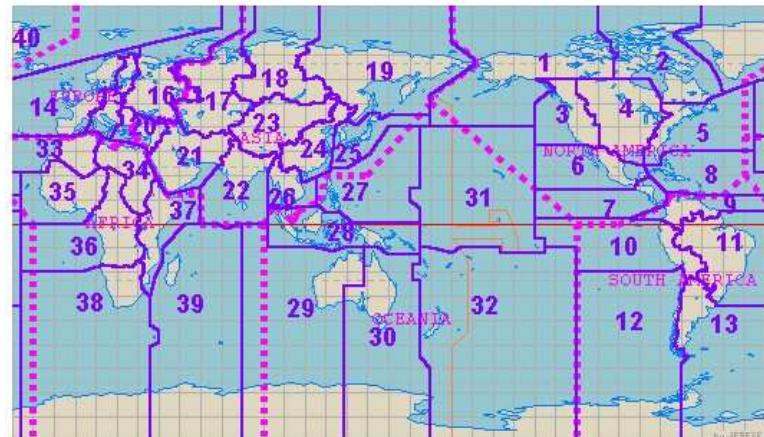


figure 2

continued on page 7

Who is WA4ZXV

Norman Schklar, WA4ZXV, first licensed in 1966 as WN4ZXV. I took the code test for my Novice license with a flashlight while attending Army Signal Officers Candidate School at Fort Gordon, GA.

While waiting for orders to Germany, my wife, Susie, and I lived in a mobile home park at Hephzibah, GA. I found an Eico720 transmitter and a Hammarlund receiver. I knew a little about antennas because I had a CB radio and an SWR meter when I was in high school, so I stuck a piece of wire out the window, tuned the transmitter just like the book said, and off I was in the world of amateur radio.

After a few months I was shipped to Germany where I was licensed as DL4JC. I soon took the General Class test from a 31Bravo HF Station operator.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6 , where am I

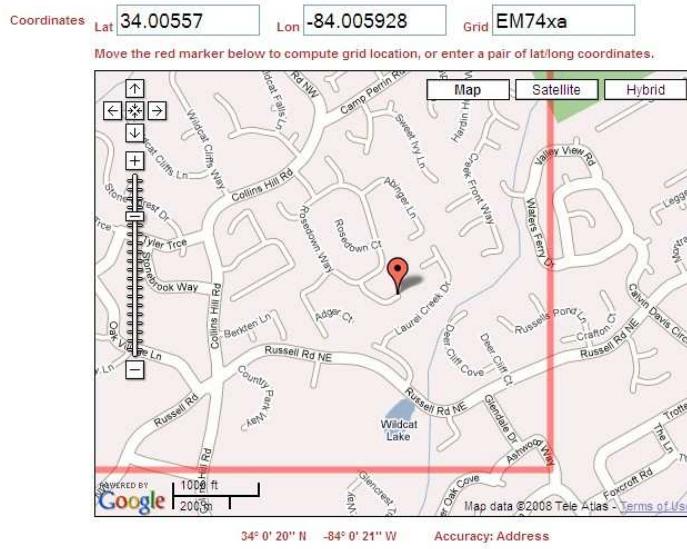


Figure 3

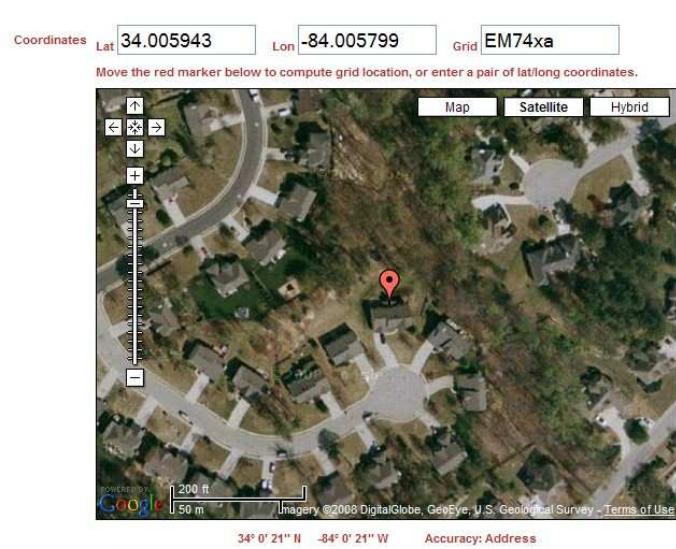


Figure 4

Continued from page 6, who is wa4zvx

While in Germany, the Army was giving SP600's to MARS operators, so I signed up and had this big receiver in our guest bedroom in Darmstadt, Germany. After a few weeks, I found that I could get a Hallicrafters BC610 transmitter and AM modulator from MARS, and I could also get an extra weight allowance for the freight to send it state-side when I left Darmstadt.

So here was the boat anchor in my guest room, now radio shack. One of the men at the MARS station knew how to set it up, and for the first time ever, the Army allowed a long wire to be strung up across the back yard. My first contact with the BC610 in CW mode (I couldn't get the modulator to work) was with a station in Vancouver Island, BC. It wasn't long until Lieutenant Schklar had to have a little more power than what was showing up on the meter. I was told that removing capacitor XYZ would increase the output 10%. So I went to remove the capacitor. This thing was about the size of a shoe box. Well, if you take the connections loose before discharging the capacitor you might get shocked so bad that it causes your legs to straighten like a frogs, and throw you against the closet door. I was lucky to hit the hollow door instead of the wall. If I had hit the wall, I think I would still be in Germany.

It was soon time to leave for Vietnam. All my gear went to my parent's basement in Murfreesboro, TN, my XYL went to stay with her mother in Nashville, and off I went to fight the enemy. My assignment in Vietnam was to supply communications for the Corps Commander. I also picked up Officer in Charge of the MARS station at a post called Plantation which was near Long Bin. After Vietnam, I returned to Murfreesboro where I was active in RACES and several VHF projects. I built several pieces of Heath Kit equipment and operated on a regular basis on HF and VHF voice. After a while, I decided I should have some "store bought" equipment and invested in the Drake "C" Twins. Soon after purchasing the Drake gear I quit operating HF. In the mid 90's I moved to Atlanta. Jim Bruce, K1FF discovered that I was a HAM without any equipment, and loaned me an HF rig and helped install a dipole. Not much later, Johnny Fearon, W4WKP, found my name in an ARRL announcement. He called and invited me to join GARS, and the rest is history. Equipment now is a FT847, IC756Pro3, RockMite-40 QRP rig, 2 dipoles, and 40 ft of tower with damaged beams from a downed tree. For the past few years I have operated almost exclusively CW. While setting up for Straight Key Night this past New Years, I discovered that the only straight I had was part of an old code practice oscillator. I have since fixed this problem by adding a J-38. I enjoy some light public service work, field day, good food, and working with GARS to build the best radio group in GA.

I am very proud to have the honor of my friends naming me GARS 2003 "Ham of the Year". And in 2006, 2007, 2008 I was elected club president.

I enjoy QRP and help with the North Georgia QRP Club and I'm active in QRP-ARCI (QRP Amateur Radio Club International), Chairperson for QRP-ARCI's FDIM 2007, 2008 (Four Days in May). Active in ARES.

I hold the ARRL title of Public Information Coordinator for the Georgia Section.

N4TRB

Brian R. Page

1717 Tidewell Trace
 Lawrenceville, GA 30043
 Gwinnett County, USA
 brian@gladlylearn.com

Call	Date			UTC	MHz	RST	Mode	Pwr
	M	D	Y					

Comments:

ITU Zone: 8
 CQ Zone: 5
 Grid: EM74xa
 QCWA: 33876
 QRP ARCI: 12787
 QSL: PSE TNX

Photo: SABLE-3 Amateur Balloon by Tony Rafaat. Used with permission.

Figure 5

Party Time

GARS

APPAREL ORDER FORM

NAME: _____

PHONE # _____

CALL: _____

NAME TO BE EMBROIDERED: _____

CALL SIGN TO BE EMBROIDERED: _____

ITEM	SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
T-SHIRT				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$20.00	
White WITH name & call			\$20.00	
GOLF SHIRT -- WITHOUT name & call				
Red			\$24.00	
White			\$24.00	
GOLF SHIRT -- WITH name & call				
Red			\$28.00	
White			\$28.00	
SWEATSHIRT				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$30.00	
White WITH name & call			\$30.00	
LIGHTWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY				
WITHOUT name & call			\$31.00	
WITH name & call			\$35.00	
HEAVYWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY				
WITHOUT name & call			\$41.00	
WITH name & call			\$45.00	
GARS BADGE -- WITH name & call			\$9.00	
HAT -- WITHOUT name & call				
Red			\$9.00	
White			\$9.00	
HAT -- WITH name & call				
Red			\$14.00	
White			\$14.00	

TOTAL ORDER PRICE: _____

Please attach your check made payable to GARS and return to Dick Sandberg, N9SXJ or mail to:

GARS
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, Georgia 30048

NOTE: Please allow at least 4 weeks for delivery of items. Some items may need to be special ordered.

Thanks and 73s! -- Dick N9SXJ

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
 P.O. Box 88
 Lilburn, GA 30048

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW MEMBER

RENEWAL

Amateur Call Sign _____

License Class

Novice

Technician

General

Advanced

Extra

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Email address _____

Home Telephone _____

Work Telephone _____

Cell Telephone _____

Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ (mm/dd/yy)

ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

I prefer to receive the GARZETTE newsletter by: US Mail Email (please check only one)

Type of Membership

Optional Contributions

Individual \$30.00 annually

Repeater Fund \$ _____

Student \$15.00 annually

Senior \$15.00 annually (over age 65)

Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Family ** \$35.00 annually

** Available for family members residing at the same address

Additional Family Members **

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ (mm/dd/yy)

License Class Technician General Extra ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ (mm/dd/yy)

License Class Technician General Extra ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

I agree to abide by the By-Laws of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society and understand that membership is subject to the approval of the Club.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

GARS Appreciates these fine sponsors that support our great organization!

**GWINNETT COLLISION
CENTER, INC.**

305 Sharon Ind. Way
Suwanee, Georgia 30024
945-0161
Import and Domestic
Unibody and Frame Repair
Marty Fowler, KE4MLH Mark Justice

WORLD WIDE DISTRIBUTION

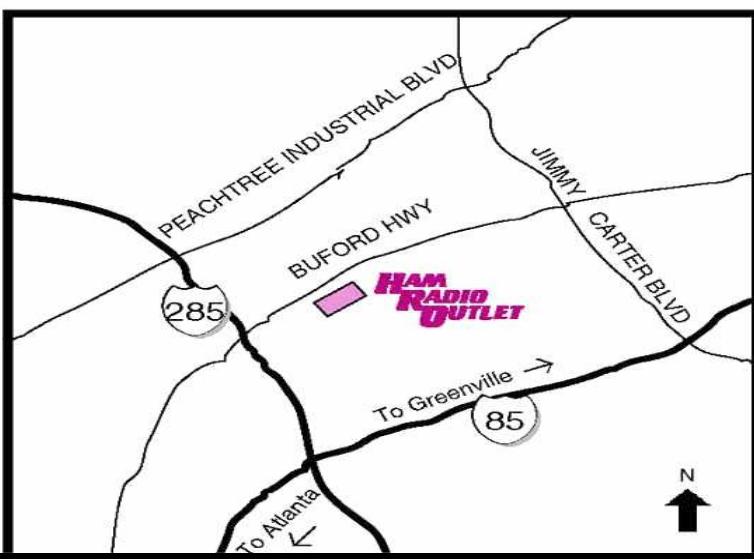


Mark Holmes
Manager
KJ4VO

6071 Buford Highway
Atlanta, GA 30340 (Doraville)
770-263-0700 1-800-444-7927
Fax 770-263-9548

Mark KJ4VO Bill W5RQR David KE4VDH Tom KB4HQA

Dale W4GCL Jim N1ABM Josh W4JDH Brian KC4UKR



Alinco
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Japan Radio Corp
Kenwood
Premier
ADI
Yaesu
Alpha Delta
Arrow
Butternut
Create
Cushcraft
Diamond
Force 12
Hustler
Hy-Gain (Telex)
KLM
Larsen
M2
Premier
Valor
Van Gordon

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048



To receive the **Garzette** via e mail contact, please contact the membership chairman

Saturday Morning

Breakfast

**Join us at the Golden Coral
on Riverside Drive in
Lawrenceville at 7:30 a.m.**

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 13th

The Meetings are on the
Second Tuesday of the
month 7:30pm at the
St Marguerite
D'Youville Church,
85 Gloster Rd NW,

Lawrenceville, GA 30044.
Just off Highway 29 SW
of Lawrenceville.

Directions on the Web
site.
<http://www.gars.org>

**PRUDENTIAL
GEORGIA
REALTY**

SHARON ADCOCK

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sharon@sharonadcock.com

You need an EXPERT on
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Real Estate

11 + Years Experience of
listening and filling YOUR
needs

 **Prudential
Real Estate**

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**GARS Specialist
Top Negotiator
Top Agent**



Helping "HAMS" with the Sale and
Purchase of their properties takes
Extra Time, Effort and Dedication.
Not every agent is willing to make
that Commitment.

Call me for when You or Your Friends
and Family are ready to Make a Move.

**References available upon Request